

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-17 and 19 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 17 have been amended, whereas claims 6, 12, 13 and 18 have been cancelled. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to better conform with the invention as now presently claimed. No new matter has been added. For purposes of clarity, Applicant addresses each of the Examiner's concerns in the order set forth in the Office Action.

**Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's position in this regard; however, and for purposes of expediting allowance, Applicant has elected to cancel claims 12 and 13 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,309,539 to Sano *et al.* Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's position in this regard; however, and for purposes of expediting allowance, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 17 (as well as dependent claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10) such that all of the claims now require that the first, second, and third wires be "carbon conducting wires." Support for these claim amendments may be found in the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 24-25, page 4, lines 4-6 and lines 10-12. As amended, claims 1-19 are patentably distinguishable over all of the prior art of record because none of the references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a power cord comprising at least first, second, and third

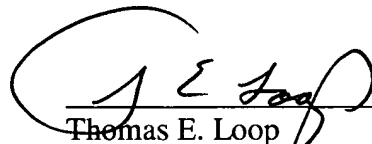
carbon conducting wires. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,309,539 to Sano *et al.* and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,002,820 to Paniri *et al.* In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,309,539 to Sano *et al.* and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,911,652 to Savoca *et al.* Finally, the Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,309,539 to Sano *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,002,820 to Paniri *et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,911,652. However, and in view of the above claim amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these grounds of rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks allowance of claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-17 and 19 is earnestly solicited. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. If any further matter requires attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 381-3100 to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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